The Assurance of Salvation in Christ

*"**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**"* The Apostle Paul, having finished the glorious words that make up the "golden chain of salvation" in Romans 8:29-30, reaches a final climax that is a triumphant declaration that *"**nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord**"* (Romans 8:39).

These questions, of course, are rhetorical. When considering God's everlasting plan of salvation, where nothing can ultimately prevent His children from entering eternal life, we see that the Christian has everything needed to trust in, rest upon, and rejoice in God's love and purpose. In other words, Paul's powerful questions stem from the foundation already laid in his letter to the Romans, culminating in chapter eight, and offer a wonderful assurance of the believer's eternal security.

This opening question, *"**What then shall we say to these things?**"*, is in many ways a declaration of God's supremacy and grace toward all who are in Christ. If the Almighty Sovereign God is for the believer, no adversary, whether human or spiritual, can succeed in their destruction. Even death itself, the enemy of us all, has been defeated in Christ and cannot separate us from God's great love. To the glory of God, in all these things the believer is "***more than a conqueror through Him who loved us***" (Romans 8:37).

We must always remember that theology must never be merely an academic exercise. Growing in the knowledge of God's eternal truth is designed to lead the Christian to worship, prayer, humility, and joyful confidence in their soul. The more deeply we explore God's Holy Word, the more our hearts should be moved to love and adore our great Redeemer. Sound theology should never foster pride, but rather gratitude and thanksgiving that overflows into a deeper commitment to Christ. It has often been said, and I believe it is true, that "sound theology leads to doxology."

Paul's confidence and assurance come from the conviction: "***God is for us"***. To say that God is "for" His people means that the Creator, the Supreme Judge, and the Savior of mankind is lovingly committed to the eternal good of the believer. No court in heaven or on earth can overturn His verdict. Why? It is because the believer has been declared not guilty ("***justified by faith***"). The glorious truth is that being justified, and whether we feel it or not, we have peace with God. Paul writes, "Therefore, since we have justified by faith, ***we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ***" (Romans 5:1).

The Apostle Paul bases this claim on the greatest of all God's gifts: "***He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?***" (Romans 8:32). The wonderful logic the apostle uses is that if God has already sacrificed what was most precious, His only begotten Son, how could He withhold anything else

necessary to bring His plan of redemption to completion? The cross is not just the start of salvation; it is the assurance that all of God's promises will definitely be fulfilled. The logic of assurance of our salvation is this: the greatest gift has already been given, so every lesser gift we need for perseverance will undoubtedly be provided.

Despite this, believers often struggle with the reality of their sin and feelings of guilt. The enemy of our souls tells us that we are not good enough and that we have committed too much sin to be loved by God. The apostle anticipates this concern, so he adds: *"**Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?**"* (Romans 8:33–34). In reference to this passage, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, in his exposition of Romans 8:17-39, writes, "He does not say, 'who will bring any charge against those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ'. That is not strong enough; it leaves the position dependent upon my belief. No, "Who will bring any charge against ***God's elect***?" Dear Christian, hold tightly to these truths. The blessed truth of God's work in redemption and electing His people before the foundation of the world is a solid foundation for your assurance of salvation. Do not let the evil one, or any erroneous teaching, deprive you of such precious truth!

Christians must declare to the evil one that the highest court has pronounced them "righteous" through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice. Nothing can overturn this ruling. The basis of this verdict is not your human effort but Christ's redeeming work: *"**Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us**"* (Romans 8:34*).*

This text highlights a threefold assurance:

1. Christ died for our sins. In other words, the penalty has been paid in full. On the cross, Jesus cried out, "***It is finished***" (John 19:30).[1] Nothing man can do will add to the forgiveness of sin.

2. Christ was raised for our justification. In other words, believers have victory over death because Christ defeated sin and death.

3. Christ intercedes for us and is actively keeping us until the day we leave this present world and enter the Savior's presence. "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

The believer's assurance is secure and not based on emotion or our works. It rests firmly on the unchanging finished work of Christ and His ongoing work in their lives. This threefold work of Christ reveals the comprehensive nature of our salvation. The believer stands not on shifting

[1] This is one word in Koine Greek τετέλεσται (Tetelestai) meaning the debt has been fully paid. Many ancient Greek documents have been found with this word written on them. These documents were evidence of debts paid in full by a debtor.

sand but on the rock of Christ's accomplished redemption. When Satan accuses and when conscience troubles, we should return to this solid ground. Our Savior has done everything necessary for our salvation, from paying sin's penalty to securing our final glorification. The Father accepted Christ's sacrifice, as evidenced by the resurrection. The Son continues His saving work through constant intercession. Therefore, the Christian can say with confidence that their salvation does not depend on changing feelings or imperfect obedience, but on Christ's perfect work that never changes. Our assurance rests entirely on what He has done, not on what we do. When we grasp this truth deeply, it transforms not only how we face trials but also how we live each day in grateful response to such amazing grace.

Still, the Apostle Paul understood very well the challenges that life can bring. Tribulation, persecution, and suffering were often part of his experience. He lists these difficulties in Romans 8:35, knowing that believers may also face the same. In Paul's letters and the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that Paul faced shipwreck, beatings, imprisonment, hunger, and other dangers. Still, his confidence, which should be ours, is that none of these will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In fact, he proclaims: *"**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us**"* (Romans 8:37). We learn from this that Paul does not claim believers escape hardship and sorrow. Yet in the difficult times we experience in our fallen nature and sinful world, the Lord Jesus will never leave us or forsake us.

The Apostle Paul's triumphant declaration in Romans 8 stands as one of Scripture's most powerful testimonies to the believer's eternal security. From the golden chain of salvation to the rhetorical questions that follow, we find not speculation but certainty, not wishful thinking but solid ground upon which to rest our souls. The Christian's assurance is built upon the unshakable foundation of God's sovereign purpose, Christ's completed work, and the Spirit's ongoing ministry in our lives.

When doubts arise, when trials press hard upon us, when the accuser whispers his lies, we must return to these glorious truths. God the Father chose us before the foundation of the world. God the Son gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and now intercedes for us at the Father's right hand. God the Holy Spirit applies this salvation to our hearts and keeps us until that day when we see our Savior face to face. This is not merely a doctrine to be studied but a living truth to be embraced, a truth that should move us from fear to faith, from anxiety to adoration, from doubt to doxology.

May every believer rest confidently in this great salvation, knowing that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. If you are struggling to have assurance of your salvation, I pray that these great truths from God will be deeply planted in your soul. I pray that the Holy Spirit will give you the assurance you desire, which is yours through Christ Jesus. May those who love the Lord and His Holy Word rejoice in the glorious redemption we have in our blessed Savior!